

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A chimeric polypeptide comprising an antigenic peptide being capable of binding a human MHC class I, a functional human  $\beta$ -2 microglobulin and a functional human MHC class I heavy chain.
2. The chimeric polypeptide of claim 1, further comprising a linker peptide being interposed between said functional human  $\beta$ -2 microglobulin and said functional human MHC class I heavy chain.
3. The chimeric polypeptide of claim 1, further comprising a linker peptide being interposed between said antigenic peptide and said functional human  $\beta$ -2 microglobulin.
4. A nucleic acid construct comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a chimeric polypeptide including an antigenic peptide being capable of binding a human MHC class I, a functional human  $\beta$ -2 microglobulin and a functional human MHC class I heavy chain.
5. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein said chimeric polypeptide further includes a linker peptide interposed between said antigenic peptide and said functional human  $\beta$ -2 microglobulin.

6. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein said chimeric polypeptide further includes a linker peptide interposed between said functional human  $\beta$ -2 microglobulin and said functional human MHC class I heavy chain.

7. The nucleic acid construct of claim 6, wherein said linker peptide is as set forth in SEQ ID NO:10.

8. The nucleic acid construct of claim 4, wherein said chimeric polypeptide further includes a peptide capable of being enzymatically modified to include a binding entity.

9. The nucleic acid construct of claim 4, further comprising a cis acting regulatory sequence for regulating expression of said nucleic acid sequence.

10. The nucleic acid construct of claim 9, wherein said cis acting regulatory sequence is functional in a bacterial host.

11. A transformed cell comprising the nucleic acid construct of claim 4.